GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:45
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
PRODUCTION OF PULSES AND OILSEEDS
Baxla Shri Joachim

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage and decreasing production of pulses and oilseeds in the country is becoming serious day by day;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) the concrete steps proposed to be taken during the current year and the eleventh five year plan to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 45 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19TH NOVEMBER, 2007.

(a) to (c): The demand for pulses and edible oils in the country has been continuously increasing and the domestic production of pulses and oilseeds has been unable to keep pace with the demand. In 2006-07 the production of pulses was 14.23 million tonnes against the requirement of 16.24 million tonnes and the production of oilseeds was 23.88 million tonnes against the requirement of 40.29 million tonnes in 2006-07. The main reasons for low production of pulses and oilseeds are that these are mainly grown on marginal and sub-marginal lands under rainfed conditions by small and marginal farmers. Their productivity is also affected adversely due to low seed replacement rate, inadequate varietal breakthrough and susceptibility to a number of insect-pests and diseases.

In order to increase the production of pulses and reduce import dependence, Government has recently launched the National Food Security Mission. The pulse component of National Food Security Mission is being implemented in 168 districts of 14 major pulses growing states of the country. Similarly, with a view to enhancing the production and productivity of oilseeds, the norms and pattern of financial assistance under Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) have been modified.